

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 and 17-61 remain in this application. Claims 14-16, directed to non-elected species, have been canceled. Reconsideration of the application is requested.

The allowance of claims 1, 17-22, and 59 is acknowledged with appreciation. The indication that claims 4-6, 9, 23, and 24 contain allowable subject matter is also acknowledged.

Claims 2, 3, 8, 60, and 61 are rejected as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication 2001/0013258 A1 to Kobayashi. Reconsideration is requested.

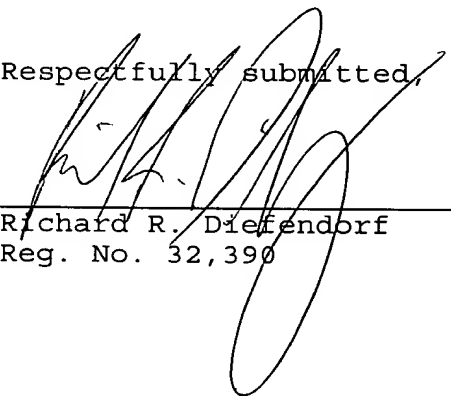
The invention as defined by claims 2, 3, 60, and 61 differs from the automatic transmission forming the subject matter of the Kobayashi publication relied on in that, according to this invention, a torque transferring mechanism is provided between a driven gear, fixed on a second axis (an output axis), and a driven gear provided so as to engage or run idle with respect to the second axis (the output axis). In the Kobayashi publication, by contrast, a torque transferring mechanism is provided between a driven gear, fixed on a first axis (an input axis), and a driven gear provided so as to engage or run idle with respect to the first axis (the input axis). The configuration of the present invention, in which a torque transferring mechanism is provided between gears on the second axis (the output axis), is used in connection with a transmission of a widely used type that has a first axis (an input axis) in its upper volume and a second axis (an output axis) in its lower volume. The present invention enables a transmission of this type to be equipped with a torque

assist mechanism below the first axis (the input axis) with little modification of structure thereof in accommodating the torque assist mechanism with its casing. The torque assist mechanism, therefore, can be provided within such a transmission without enlarging its casing.

The features distinguishing the present invention from the Kobayashi publication relied on are reflected in claims 2, 3, 60, and 61, and claims 2, 3, 60, and 61 are patentable. Dependent claim 8 is also patentable, as are dependent claims 7, 10-13, and 25-58, which have been withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner but which should be examined and allowed pursuant to MPEP §§809.02(c) and 809.04.

This application is now in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any questions after considering this Reply, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,


Richard R. Diefendorf
Reg. No. 32,390

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CROWELL & MORING LLP
P.O. Box 14300
Washington, D.C. 20044-4300
Telephone No.: (202) 624-2500
Facsimile No.: (202) 628-8844
RRD:msy